HF Happenings

You can now download your copy of HF Happenings from www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp.

IARU Region 1 Band Plan

The new HF Band Plan, which came into effect on 1 June 2016, is available for download from the IARU Region 1's website at www.iaru-r1.org/index.php/hf/hf-related-references. It is also available on www.sarl.org.za

CQ DX Marathon

The CQ DX Marathon is a year-long DX hunt, with participants competing to see who can work the greatest number of countries ("entities") and CQ zones during the calendar year. Complete results of the 2015 DX Marathon are on www.dxmarathon.com/Results/2015/Results2015.htm.

Congratulations to Geoff Levey, ZS6C, who is the Zone 38 and ZS leader and achieved 4th place in Africa in the 2015 CQ DX Marathon.

ZS6 Hammies Sprint

This is a fun activity to promote contacts between radio amateurs in ZS6 and radio amateurs in Southern African countries with an emphasis on ZU stations. The Sprint takes place on Sunday 12 June from 14:00 to 15:00 UTC.

The exchange is a RS report and your provincial abbreviation. All stations outside South Africa will give DX. It is a phone contest on the 40 metre band - 7 063 to 7 100 and 7 130 to 7 200 kHz.

Scoring for ZS6 - contacts with stations in ZS6 are worth 1 point and contacts with stations in other ZS call areas or Southern African countries are worth 2 points.

Scoring for all other stations - contacts with stations in ZS6 call area or Southern African countries are worth 2 points and contacts with stations in own call areas are worth 1 point.

Scoring for all ZU Stations - contacts with the Hammies ARC, ZS6ZU, are worth 5 points. Contacts with any ZU station are worth 3 points and contacts between ZU stations are worth 5 points

Log sheets in ADIF, Cabrillo or MS Excel format and labelled "your call sign Hammies," must be submitted by 19 June 2016 by e-mail to chairman@zs6zu.org.za.

Certificates will be awarded to the first, second and third places and certificates will be awarded to the first, second and third places for ZU stations.

The ZS3 Sprint

The results of the ZS3 Sprint held on Sunday 15 May have been released. Twenty-three logs and four check logs were received. It is good to see three ZU calls in the listing as well.

1st Alewyn Muller, ZS3A, 126 points
2nd Max Rossi, ZS5MAX, 98 points

3rd Michell Mynhardt, ZS6YH, 94 points
4th Theo Bresler, ZS6TVB, 88 points
5th Taniel Gibson, ZS4AZ, 64 points
6th Johan van Vuuren, ZS2JV, 63 points
7th Ken Gurr, ZS6KN, 62 points
8th Barry Nugent, ZS2NF, 61 points
9th Christopher Coetzee, ZU6CC, 59 points
10th Robert van Meulen, ZU6BOB, 55 points and
Charl Britz, ZS4ATZ, 55 points
11th Michael Barnard, ZS4MJB, 54 points
12th Max Bouckley, ZS6MAX, 51 points
13th Theunis Potgieter, ZS2EC, 40 points
14th Heather Holland, ZS5YH, 31 points
15th Wally Moll ZS6BCI, 29 points
16th Hentie Lombard, ZS1LH, 27 points
17th Abe Zwiegelaar, ZS1ZS, 26 points
18th Stephen van Jaarsveld, ZS6SVJ, 22 points
19th Willem van der Merwe, ZS6WIM, 19 points
20th Pam Momberg, ZS6APT, 15 points
21st Kyle Hooper, ZU6RAT, 12 points
22nd Adele Steenkamp, ZS2DH, 11 points

Check logs
Noord-Kaap Amateurradioklub, ZS3NC
Namaqualand Aero Sport Association, ZS3FLY
Sutherland Amateur Radio Club, ZS3OBS
Gerhard Coetzee, ZS3TG

Club Log's Most Wanted List

The latest Club Log Most Wanted List, generated on 28 May, is available at https://secure.clublog.org/mostwanted.php. The information is derived from QSOs uploaded to Club Log (currently 360 million log entries available for analysis) and, to improve quality, only QSOs that have QSLs confirmed are considered to be worked.

Marine buoy ZL1SIX now adrift in Pacific

The marine buoy ZL1SIX with its low powered transmission on the 30 m band is now floating around the Pacific Ocean. Bob, ZL1RS reports that the solar powered buoy is transmitting the weak signal WSPR and JT9 modes on the 30 m band. The yacht Windflower launched the buoy in the middle of the South Pacific Ocean with its last location being south of Fiji and Tonga. Data sent hourly shows the buoy travelling at about 1,8 km per hour in a north-nor-east direction. More details, including tracking progress being mapped, are online at www.qsl.net/zl1rs/oceanfloater.html.

June

4 – West Rand ARC Flea Market
5 - World Environmental Day
6 - Start of Ramadan
8 - World Oceans Day
12 - Hammies ZS6 Sprint; SARL Youth Net
16 - Youth Day
17 - World QRP Day
18 – Highway ARC 20th Birthday, ZS5HAM on the air; ARRL Kid's Day
19 Father's Day
20 Winter Solstice
21 closing date for July Radio ZS articles
23 to 27 - SARL Top Band QSO Party
24 to 26 - Ham Radio 2016, Friedrichshafen, Germany
30 - End of SARL Membership year

July

1 – Start of SARL Membership year; Bloemfontein ARC 36th birthday
3 - ZS5 Sprint
6 - Eid-UL-Fitr
9 and 10 - IARU HF Championships
10 - SARL Youth Net
16 - Winter QRP Sprint
16 to 23 - Region 1 YOTA Summer Camp in Austria
18 - Schools open
24 - ZS2 Sprint
25 - Closing date for articles for the August Radio ZS
30 and 31 - Islands on the Air Contest

August

7 - SARL HF Phone Contest
9 - SARL YL Sprint; National Women's day
13 and 14 - International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend
14 - SARL Youth Net
21 - SARL HF Digital Contest
28 - SARL HF CW Contest

New filters for the FT-817

Building on the success of their digital filter modules, SOTABEAMS has designed a filter that fits inside the FT-817. The Laserbeam-817 gives greatly improved SSB filtering and includes a 500 Hz CW filter. It can be used with or without the standard optional filters to improve the overall performance of the radio. Switching between SSB and CW is done automatically so fitting the unit does not require holes to be drilled into the case of the radio. The Laserbeam-817 is a cost-effective way to improve the performance of this popular transceiver. SOTABEAMS offers a fitting service in the UK through "M0HET Electronics."

Full details at http://www.sotabeams.co.uk/ssb-cw-filter-module-for-the-ft-817/

Egypt leaves Tiran and Sanafir islands to Saudi Arabia

Last April in Cairo, the Saudi King Salman and the Head of the Egyptian Government Al Sisi sanctioned the assignment of two Egyptian islands to Saudi Arabia.

The two uninhabited islets, Tiran and Sanafir, located in the Suez Canal, IOTA reference AF-101 valid as Egypt for DXCC, had been given to Egypt by Saudi Arabia in 1950 according to a military and strategic perspective. Today, after 66 years, Saudi Arabia recovers its property of two strategically important islands, thanks to an agreement involving economic aid to Egypt.

It is probable that the two islands will be merged into the IOTA AS-190 group and will count as Saudi Arabia for DXCC credit; however we wait for the response of the IOTA Management.

African DX

Africa DX Net - every Saturday afternoon from 14:00 UTC on 14,260 MHz hosted by Mike, V51MA, Leon, A25SL, and Tinus, ZS6MHK.

Swaziland, 3DA0. Braam, ZS6AYE, is/was active as 3DA0AY this past week from Bulembu, Swaziland. He informed OPDX, "I am in and out of Swaziland and I live 35 km from the border and work in Swaziland. I am in the business of communications. I am getting everything ready for a DXpedition that will start on 18 July and end on 25." Activity is on 40 to 10 metres using mainly the digital modes (RTTY, JT65, PSK31). The radio is a Kenwood using 40 to 200 watts into vertical antennas. For mode and band requests, e-mails are welcome at 3da0ay@gmail.com. QSL via ZS6AYE or ClubLog's OQRS.

African Islands

IOTA frequencies
CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz
SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Fuerteventura Island, EA8. Mike, DG5LAC, will once again be active as EA8/DG5LAC from Fuerteventura Island (AF-004) between now and 18 June. Activity will be on 40-10 meters using SSB and 100 watts. QSL via his home call sign, direct, by the Bureau, LoTW or eQSL.

Ascension Island, ZD8. Thorsten, DO2JX, is now active as ZD8JX from Georgetown, Ascension Island (AF-003). The length of his stay is not known at this time. Activity has been on various HF bands. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau.

Mauritius Island, 3B8. Robert, M0RCX will be active again as 3B8/M0RCX from Mauritius Island (AF-049) from 16 June to 14 July. He will operate on 40 to 6 metres using SSB, RTTY, PSK, JT65-HF and occasionally ROS. QSL via EB7DX, LoTW and eQSL.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 6 to 13 June 2016

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, Data
19:00 - 20:30 UTC 6 June
Mode: RTTY, PSK
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RST and serial no
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 13 June 2016
Upload log at: http://www.vhfcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2016/r80mcc.shtml

ARS Spartan Sprint
01:00 - 03:00 UTC 7 June
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Skinny; Tubby
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and power
Work stations: Once per band
Submit logs by: 9 June 2016
E-mail logs to: spartansprint@yahoo.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://arsqrp.blogspot.com/2009/02/so-whats-spartan-sprint-and-how-do-i.html

Phone Fray
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 8 June
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 10 June 10 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 8 June and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 9 June
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts;
QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: Name and member no;
non-Member: Name and state, province or
country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each call once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO
points x total mults
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 11 June 2016
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html

NCCC RTTY Sprint
01:45 UTC-0215Z 10 June
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO
points x total mults
Submit logs by: 12 June 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 10 June
Mode: CW
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO
points x total mults
Submit logs by: 12 June 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

DRCG WW RTTY Contest
00:00 – 07:59 UTC and 16:00 - 23:59 UTC 11
June and 08:00 – 15:59 UTC 12 June
Mode: RTTY
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All-Band; Single Op All-
Band 6 Hrs; Single Op All-Band Unlimited;
Multi-Op
Exchange: RST and CQ Zone
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: Each DXCC country once per
band; Each VK, VE, JA and W call area once
per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO
points x total mults
Submit logs by: 19 June 2016
E-mail logs to: drcgww@drcg.de
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.drcg.de/drcgww/drcg-ww-rtty-
english.html

VK Shires Contest
06:00 UTC 11 June to 06:00 UTC 12 June
Mode: CW, SSB
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: VK Single Op - rover or fixed; VK
Multi-Two - rover or fixed; DX Single Op
Exchange: VK: RS(T) and Shire; non-VK:
RS(T) and CQ Zone
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: VK: Each VK shire once per band
per mode; VK: Each CQ zone once per band
per mode; non-VK: Each VK shire once per
band per mode
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO
points x total mults
Submit logs by: 1 July 2016
E-mail logs to: contest@vk2bo.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://vkshires.vk2bo.com/vk-
shires-contest-rules.html

Asia-Pacific SSB Sprint
11:00 - 13:00 UTC 11 June
Mode: SSB
Bands: 20, 15 m
Classes: Single Op Single Radio

Max power: Asia Pacific: 150 watts; Non-Asia Pacific: maximum legal
Exchange: RS and serial no
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: Asia-Pacific: 1 point per QSO; Non-Asia-Pacific: 1 point per QSO with an Asia-Pacific station
Multipliers: Each prefix once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 18 June 2016
E-mail logs to: apsprint@jsfc.org
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://jsfc.org/apsprint/aprule.txt

Portugal Day Contest
12:00 UTC 11 June to 12:00 UTC 12 June
Mode: CW, SSB
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - CW, SSB or mixed
Exchange: CT: RS(T) and District; non-CT: RS(T) and serial no
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: Each CT region and each DXCC country once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 1 September 2016
E-mail logs to: rep-concursos@rep.pt
Mail logs to: REP Award/Contest Manager, Rua D. Pedro V, No. 7-40, 1250-092 Lisboa, Portugal
Find rules at:
http://www.rep.pt/portugal_day_contest/rules.html

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon
12:00 UTC 11 June to 24:00 UTC 12 June
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m
Classes: (none)
Max operating hours: 24

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and SKCC no or "NONE"
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Bonus Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: Each state, province or country once
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 19 June 2016
Post log summary at:
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/submit-display.php
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon/

GACW WWSA CW DX Contest
15:00 UTC 11 June to 15:00 UTC 12 June
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high; Single Op Single Band - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single; Multi-Multi
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: RST and CQ Zone no
QSO Points: 0 points per QSO with same country; 1 point per QSO with different country, same continent; 3 points per QSO with different continent; Non-SA stations: 5 points per QSO with South America
Multipliers: Each CQ zone once per band; Each country once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 30 July 2016
E-mail logs to: logs@wwsatest.org
Mail logs to: GACW DX Contest, PO Box 9, B1875ZAA Wilde, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Find rules at:
http://www.wwsatest.org/english

Next Week's Contests

NAQCC CW Sprint, 00:30 - 02:30 UTC 15 June
Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 15 June

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 15 June and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 16 June

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, CW, 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 15 June

NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 17 June

NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 17 June

All Asian DX Contest, CW, 00:00 UTC 18 June to 24:00 UTC 19 June

Ukrainian DX Classic RTTY Contest, 12:00 UTC 18 June to 11:59 UTC 19 June

Stew Perry Topband Challenge, 15:00 UTC 18 June to 15:00 UTC 19 June

West Virginia QSO Party, 16:00 UTC 18 June to 02:00 UTC 19 June

Kid's Day Contest, 18:00 - 23:59 UTC 18 June

Feld Hell Sprint, 20:00 - 21:59 UTC 18 June

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 20 June

VHF Happenings

There appears to be a revival of VHF Simplex operation

About two years ago Carl Minne, ZS6CBQ, at Krugersdorp started a VHF net early on Saturday and Sunday mornings on 144,300 MHz SSB. From humble beginnings, the activity grew eventually spreading throughout Gauteng, Limpopo and to the Free State. Many newcomers came on the air with horizontal Yagis, such as Rickus, ZS4A, at Bethlehem, who within a year progressed to EME.

Mike Kellett, ZS1TAF, started a net in Cape Town on Thursday evenings also on 144,300 MHz SSB. Initially working mainly on vertical antennas but the group is now migrating to horizontal antennae to increase their range.

Other nets include those of Jaco Cronje, ZR6CMG, on Tuesday and Thursday evenings on 145,500 MHz FM using vertical antennas in Pretoria and two long nets in Port Elizabeth conducted by Al Akers, ZS2U, on 70,200 MHz in the 4 metre band FM on Monday evenings and 52 MHz on 6 metres FM on Wednesday evenings using vertical polarization.

Recently Andre Grove, ZS3AG, at Kimberley heard CW on 144,300 MHz from Hugo van Zyl, ZS5HV, in Scottburgh over a distance of 613 km. He alerted Pieter Jacobs, V51PJ, at Rosh Pinah, Namibia via WhatsApp, who also heard some CW from Hugo, a distance of 1 395 km. The VHF paths are there and two-way contacts are imminent during Tropo Ducting propagation.

Starshot Laser Propulsion

An article by radio amateur Zac Manchester KD2BHC describes the laser propulsion system to be used by the Starshot spacecraft project.

In April, the UK's Stephen Hawking along with Yuri Milner announced that the Breakthrough Foundation would begin funding work on the concept of a laser-propelled star ship, with the long-term goal of reaching the closest neighbouring star system to our own, Alpha Centauri.

Zac Manchester, KD2BHC, is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Agile Robotics Lab at Harvard University and a consultant on Breakthrough Starshot.

It took NASA's New Horizons spacecraft nine years to reach Pluto. A nanocraft pushed from Earth orbit toward Alpha Centauri could traverse that same distance in less than 36 hours.

How Do You Fly to Alpha Centauri in Just 20 Years? Ride a Laser Beam!

http://spectrum.ieee.org/tech-talk/aerospace/space-flight/how-do-you-fly-to-alpha-centauri-in-just-20-years-ride-a-laser-beam

The CubeSat KickSat-2 carrying about 100 tiny Sprite spacecraft developed by Zac, KD2BHC, is planned to launch to the ISS in July. When deployed the Sprites will transmit in the 437 MHz band.

100 Sprite 437 MHz satellites to be deployed

A radio amateur's tiny Sprite Spacecraft are planned to be shipped to the International Space Station in July. Nature magazine reports Zac Manchester, KD2BHC, is having a second attempt at deploying about 100 Sprite spacecraft in space. The first attempt at deployment from the CubeSat KickSat-1 in 2014 was unsuccessful.

In July, KickSat-2 carrying the Sprites, each fitted with their own 437 MHz transmitter, will be flown to the ISS. The CubeSat will then be deployed later in the year and KickSat-2 will in turn deploy its cargo of Sprites.

Read the Nature magazine story at www.nature.com/news/tiny-chipsat-spacecraft-set-for-first-flight-1.20006

Watch a simulation, produced by Ben Bishop VK2FBRB, of the planned Sprite deployment https://amsat-uk.org/2014/04/18/successful-launch-of-kicksat-carrying-104-sprite-satellites/

2014 deployment attempt https://amsat-uk.org/2014/05/03/kicksat-sprite-deployment-may-not-happen/

This Week's Contests

REF DDFM 6 m Contest
16:00 UTC 11 June to 16:00 UTC 12 June
Mode: CW, SSB, FM
Bands: 6 m Only
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RS(T), serial no and 4-character grid square
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each F locator and each F department once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 12 July 2016
E-mail logs to: ddfm50@ref-union.org
Mail logs to: F6IIT, Patrick Vermote, 175 chemin des Meuniers, F-86130 Dissay, France
Find rules at: http://concours.ref-union.org/reglements/actuels/reg_ddfm50_fr_201303.pdf

ARRL June VHF Contest

18:00 UTC 11 June to 02:59 UTC 13 June
Mode: All
Bands: 50 MHz and up
Classes: Single Op All Band (Low/High); Single Op Single Band (Low/High); Single Op Portable; Single Op 3-Band; Single Op FM; Rover; Limited Rover; Unlimited Rover; Unlimited Multi-Op; Limited Multi-Op
Exchange: 4-character grid square
Work stations: Once per band per grid square
QSO Points: 1 point per 50 or 144 MHz QSO; 2 points per 222 or 432 MHz QSO; 3 points per 906 or 1 296 MHz QSO; 4 points per 2,3 GHz (or higher) QSO
Multipliers: Each grid square once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 13 July 2016
E-mail logs to: JuneVHF@arrl.org
Mail logs to: June VHF, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111, USA
Find rules at: http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf

Next Week's Contests

AGCW VHF/UHF Contest, 14:00 - 17:00 UTC (144) and 17:00 - 18:00 UTC (432) 18 June
SMIRK Contest, 00:00 UTC 18 June to 24:00 UTC 19 June
IARU Region 1 50 MHz Contest, 14:00 UTC 18 June to 14:00 UTC 19 June
WAB 50 MHz Phone, 09:00 - 15:00 UTC 19 June

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter